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# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

COUNTRY Burma

SUBJECT Mawchi Mines, Ltd.

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DATE OF  
INFO. February 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The Mawchi Mines, Ltd., producers of tin and tungsten, are connected with the railroad at Toungoo by a company all-weather road 100 miles long. The elevation of the mine is 3,600 feet and the mill 1,900 feet. The mine is developed by adits, and therefore has good drainage and ventilation.
2. Although many of the workings were caved in during the Japanese occupation, production at the mine began in 1948 and by August of the same year the output reached 130 tons of mixed concentrates (38 percent tin and 33 percent tungstic oxide ( $WO_3$ )). By December 1948, production had declined to only 60 tons as the fighting had cut off the shipment of mining supplies. Total production of the mine at Mawchi for the calendar year 1948 including tributary was 822 tons of mixed concentrates.\*
3. The mine closed down completely in May 1949 when stocks of supplies were exhausted and the mine is now on a care and maintenance basis. No mixed concentrates have been produced since the first half of 1949 when 400 tons were produced. As of February 1950, the Mawchi Mines, Ltd.\*\* staff which is still at the mine, purchased all production of tributary who worked the mine. In February 1950 the stocks at Mawchi totaled about 640 tons of mixed concentrates.
4. The mill, including the flotation plant, has been completely rebuilt, and now has a monthly potential capacity of 300 tons of mixed concentrates. The ore mined averages about 2.5 percent combined tin and tungsten. Fine sulphides are separated by flotation. Under normal conditions the mixed concentrates are shipped to the Murex plant in England where the tin and tungsten are separated.
5. Since resumption of activity at the mines in 1948, operations have been hindered by the general state of chaos in Burma. Labor was scattered and difficult to locate. Shipments of explosives to the mine were stopped on orders of the Government of Burma (GOB) lest such explosives fall into the hands of the Karens. Shipments of fuel were commandeered by the GOB for its own use. Shortages of food, medical supplies and essential spare parts impeded the operations.

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
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. When Mawchi Mines, Ltd. went on a care and maintenance basis most of the Karen workers, although discharged by the company, started to work nearby prospects by hand, selling the product to Mawchi. Others went to tungsten mines in Thailand near Mae Sarieng informing the company that they would return as soon as operations at Mawchi were reinstated.
7. The reserves at Mawchi total 766,000 tons averaging 2.27 percent combined tin and tungsten with the possibility of further development substantially increasing these figures. Given good operating conditions within a year's time it is estimated that the mine could reach an output of 300 tons of mixed concentrates per month.
8. New tungsten deposits have been reported northeast of Papun near the Thai border. These concentrates are being mined by hand by local Karens and the concentrate is being smuggled into Thailand and sold as Thai produce. The concentrates are taken to Mae Sarieng and then flown by Siamese Airways to Chiangmai.
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- \*  Comment. From March 1948 to March 1949, 49,794 tons were produced at the mine and 215 tons were bought from tributes.
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- \*\*  Comment. Mawchi Mines, Ltd. are controlled by the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa Ltd. of which Sir Ernest Oppenheimer is chairman of the board of directors.

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